

BOARD OF HEALTH
Bangs Community Center: Room 101
Minutes

July 28, 2011

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld, Jennifer Brown, Maria Bulzacchelli, Nancy Gilbert

BOH Member Excused: David Kaufman

Staff: Julie Federman, Pamela Field-Sadler

Other: Diana Stein – Amherst Board of Selectmen Liaison

Debbi Friedlander – Director, Beston St. Explorers, 31 Beston Street

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

I. Review & Receive

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2011 – **Approved as amended**

II. New Business

A. Agricultural Use Well Application: 323 Montague Road

The Board of Health reviewed an application for an Agricultural Use Well Construction Permit for the property at 323 Montague Road. Ms. Federman reported the Health Department had completed an inspection of the site and observed an above ground fuel storage tank within 200' of the proposed well construction site. The Health Department has reviewed the *Determination of Applicability* issued by the Amherst Conservation Commission in regards to this project, and is assured the proposed well construction site meets their approval. Sanitarian Javeria Mir has reviewed the proposed well design plan and is of the opinion that the design meets the requirements of the *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells*.

Motion: Ms. Bulzacchelli made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gilbert, to approve the Agricultural Use Well Construction Permit application for the property located at 323 Montague Road as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

B. Composting Toilet

Debbi Friedlander – Director, Beston St. Explorers, 31 Beston Street, in attendance.

Ms. Friedlander requested the Board of Health (BOH) grant the approval for the construction of a human manure composting toilet system on the property located at 31 Beston Street where she will offer a summer camp program for children aged 4 – 6 years. Ms. Friedlander's camp will only operate during the month of August and will accommodate up to 10 children. Ms. Friedlander explained the concept of the human manure toilet, and the collection and composting process. Ms. Federman has consulted the State Regional Health Officer and reported human manure composting systems are not illegal; Ms.

Federman is waiting for other state officials to share their expertise in this area. Ms. Federman also consulted with the Amherst Building Commissioner and learned there are no specific requirements in the building code. Concerns raised during the discussion include:

- The property is located in a densely populated residential area with a brook running through the yard.
- Where would the compost area be located on the property?
- Would children or animals potentially be able to access the composting area?
- Could rain water cause disease organisms to leach from the composting area?
- How would the excretion of children who have been immunized with a live vaccine effect the compost?
- What hand washing facilities would be available?
- How would the toileting system be monitored by the Health Department?

The BOH agreed they are not prepared to make a decision on Ms. Friedlander's request at this time. Ms. Brown volunteered to research the subject further and report her findings to the BOH.

C. ATC Associates INC

Chairman Ahlfeld reported he had received correspondence from ATC Associates INC notifying the Board of Health that an Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan was submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for Crampton Hall/Stonewall Center located on the University of Massachusetts campus. Ms. Federman also received this notice and explained the IRA Plan is for the clean-up needed for asbestos found at the site.

D. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Chairman Ahlfeld reported he had received a request from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to complete a survey regarding inspectional needs for member communities. Ms. Federman will be responsible to complete the survey.

III. Old Business

A. Member Re-appointment

David Ahlfeld and David Kaufman have been re-appointed to the Board of Health (BOH) for 3 year terms. Ms. Stein has received notice from the Town Clerk that Chairman Ahlfeld needs to be officially sworn into the position; Chairman Ahlfeld reported he had done so already. Ms. Stein will follow-up with the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Federman informed the BOH Mr. Kaufman has expressed to the Town Manager that his re-appointment should be considered temporary; the BOH will discuss this with Mr. Kaufman at their next meeting.

IV. Director's Report

A. Five College Table Top Drill

The Emergency Communication Drill scheduled for June 7, 2011 at Amherst College was cancelled. The drill has not been rescheduled yet; Ms. Federman will notify the Board of Health when a new date is set for this event.

B. Health Department

The Health Department is very busy at this time. The staff continues to do a great job of handling the responsibilities and transitions. Ms. Mir will be taking maternity leave in the fall; the Health Department is working to ensure required health inspections are up to date before her departure.

C. Tobacco Checks

The Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program has conducted a tobacco retail inspection/compliance check in Amherst as part of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) contract with Massachusetts. The FDA determined that one vendor had violations of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. The vendor has received a warning letter from the FDA. Ms. Federman will follow-up a concern raised regarding items sold by this particular vendor.

D. DIG Meetings

Ms. Federman continues to participate in the District Incentive Grant planning meetings. The next meetings will be September 6th and 20th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Federman explained the Request for Response to receive implementation funds for the next project phase was released today.

E. Post Office Ashtrays Concern

Ms. Federman has investigated a resident's concern regarding the location of an ashtray at the post office located on University Drive. Ms. Federman has completed a site visit and found that an ashtray is attached to a wall directly outside the patron entrance to the post office. Ms. Federman consulted Attorney D.J. Wilson, Tobacco Control Director for the Massachusetts Municipal Association, who confirmed the post office is a federal building and not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health. Legislation exists banning smoking within a post office and postal vehicles; the post office manager is responsible for creating a smoking area. Ms. Federman has spoken to the manager of the post office who will look into the location of the ashtray.

V. Schedule Next Board of Health Meeting/Agenda Closing Date

A. The Board of Health (BOH) agreed not to schedule a meeting for August 2011 unless an item requiring immediate attention arises. The BOH scheduled the following meetings:

September 22, 2011

October 27, 2011

November 17, 2011

December 15, 2011

Board of Health
July 28, 2011
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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting. These documents are available for review at the:

Amherst Health Department, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: May 26, 2011 (draft)
- Agricultural Well Construction Application: 323 Montague Road
- Determination of Applicability: 323 Montague Road
- Letter from Amherst Sanitarian re: 323 Montague Road
- Pictures of proposed well location and storage tank located at 323 Montague Road
- Letter to the Board of Health from Deb Friedlander
- Humanure Composting Information
- PVPC Letter re: Inspectional Needs Survey
- ATC Associates INC. Letter re: IRA Plan submitted